Annex to the letter dated 26 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

European Union General Affairs Council Conclusions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The Council condemns the assassination of President Kabila.

2. The Council reaffirms that lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be achieved only through a negotiated peace settlement which is fair to all parties, through respect for the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for democratic principles and human rights in all States of the region, and by taking account of the security interest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbouring countries.

3. The Council therefore reiterates its strong support for the Lusaka Agreement as the consensual basis for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region. It asks all parties to the Agreement to respect their commitments and to comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions.

4. The Council welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a meeting as soon as possible with all signatories to the Lusaka Agreement aiming at the revival of the peace process.

5. The Council stresses the importance of strict adherence to the ceasefire and underlines that it would be unacceptable for any party to take advantage of the situation to achieve military gains. The Council calls upon all parties to maintain calm and show restraint.

6. The Council urges the authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enter into the national dialogue foreseen in the Lusaka Agreement and to build legitimate government. The Council also requests other parties to act accordingly. The Union will support any initiative to this end in liaison with the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue, Sir Katumile Masire.

7. Recalling its conclusions from 22 May 2000, encouraging the SG/HR assisted by the Special Representative for the Great Lakes region to pursue and intensify the European Union activities in the region, the Council asks the European Union Special Representative to travel to the region as soon as possible to convey these messages to the authorities and all parties to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

8. The Council requests its relevant bodies to make early recommendations on:

(a) Possible European Union action in the light of a report from the Special Representative on his visit and other developments;

(b) A possible embargo and its modalities to stem the flow of arms fuelling and protracting the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region.

9. The Council invites the Commission to continue its efforts to provide aid, including humanitarian aid, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council urges all parties to guarantee access for humanitarian aid.

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I have the honour to bring to your attention the document entitled "European Union General Affairs Council Conclusions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo", issued on 22 January 2001 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

10. The Council urges the authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all other parties to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of all civilians.